HISTORY'S One Third, Two Thirds Rule

A Work of History = 1/3 Uncontested Fact

In

Critical Reader = A Good Consumer

Both are concerned with -

- **Quality of the materials used in making the item**
- **The craftsmanship of the person who did the work**
- **The purpose for which the item was designed**

The Author – Expertise and/or Qualifications

- Academic Preparation
- Extensive Personal Research
- Personal Experience

Pitfall – authors background or experience, proximity to the action, and duty position influence his credibility.

Three Phases of the Evaluation Process

1. The Preliminary Assessment Phase
2. The Concurrent Evaluation Phase
3. The Subsequent Evaluation Phase

Preliminary Assessment Phase

- Title page: Provides the Title, Author, Place and Date of Publication, Name of Publisher
- Read the Preface
- Scan the Bibliography

The Concurrent Evaluation Phase

- Read Critically
- Look for Key Points
- Remain Objective

Keep a Notebook

Key Points of this Phase

1. Ask the Critical Questions
2. Did the Author Achieve his purpose

The Subsequent Evaluation Phase

1. Measure Against Other Works
2. Decide on the Arguments Presented
3. Review the Notebook

Pit Falls

- Best Sellers do not necessarily equal best historical works
- Not all works serve the same purpose
- A new work does not necessarily equate to a better work

Wrap Up

- Apply Critical Evaluation To: Individual History Books, Articles, and Monographs.
- Examine the Expertise or Qualifications of the Author. - *Academic preparation, extensive personal research, [illegible]ence.*